

518,070

Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 DEC 2004

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
8 January 2004 (08.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/002933 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07C 51/265**,
63/26, 63/24, 63/16, 63/14

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2003/005786 ✓

(22) International Filing Date: 30 May 2003 (30.05.2003) ✓

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 2002A001423 ✓
27 June 2002 (27.06.2002) ✓ IT

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

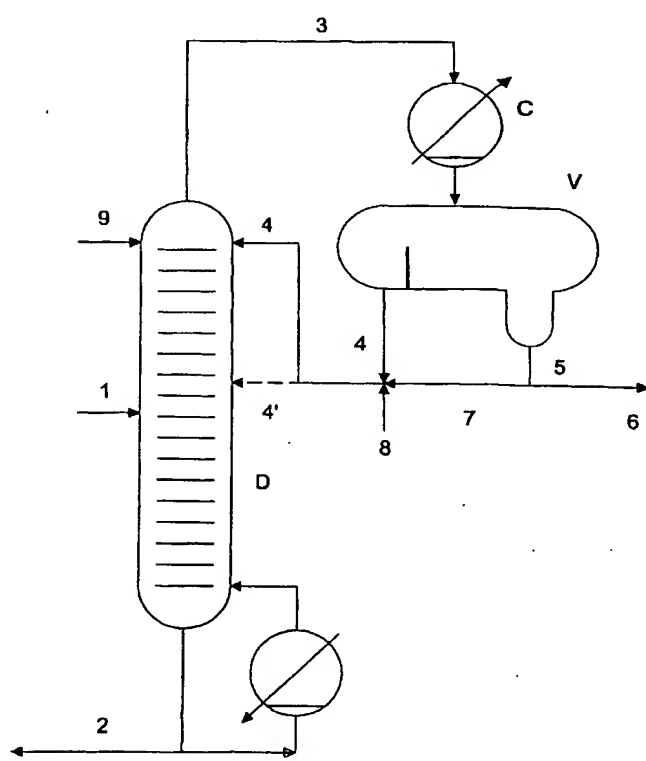
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE SEPARATION OF THE WATER PRODUCED IN THE CATALYTIC OXIDATION OF AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS TO POLYCARBOXYLIC AROMATIC ACIDS



(57) Abstract: In the oxidation process of aromatic hydrocarbons to produce the corresponding aromatic acids and anhydrides, such as isophthalic and terephthalic acid and their homologous products, by catalytic oxidation in the presence of acetic acid as reaction medium, the water, by-product of the oxidation reaction, is separated from the acetic acid to be recycled by means of azeotropic/extractive distillation, using, as modifying solvent of their relative volatility, the same aromatic hydrocarbon fed to the oxidation reaction.

WO 2004/002933 A1